

TS 101686

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24 September 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE, THE JOINT STAFF

SUBJECT: Assumptions for NIE 11-9-54, "Soviet Air Defense Capabilities"

1. The Board of National Estimates believes that in undertaking the new national estimate on Soviet Air Defense Capabilities which is on the IAC approved program for the Fourth Quarter of 1954, we should attempt to meet the criticism levied at the last version of this exercise, SIE-5. When SIE-5 came before the IAC it was criticized as being not a capabilities estimate, but rather an "inventory" of Soviet air defense assets. The title was changed and a foreword included to this effect. This problem arose partly because we could not write a "net capabilities" study, and the DCI expressed the hope that the next revision of the study could be a "net" exercise.

2. While it is probably still not possible to do a "net" analysis, there is one step we can take to make NIE 11-9-54 more realistic and useful. Much of the controversy in SIE-5 arose over Soviet capabilities against various types and scales of attack. We therefore request that you get from the Joint Planners a generalized list of the various types and over-all scales of attack which the Soviets might have to meet, i.e., at _____ to _____ feet, low level attacks at _____ to _____ feet, night or all-weather attacks of various types; single aircraft attacks vs. multiple or saturation attacks by _____ to _____ aircraft, attacks by missiles such as Regulus or Matador, etc.

3. A generalized list (assumptions) of this sort, though drawn from SAC and Navy experience, would not reveal war plans. Yet it would permit us to say what resistance each of these types of attack could expect to meet, and thus provide a paper generally responsive to the needs of the NSC and its subordinate organs in their deliberations on overall security policy.

ONE:RWKomer/PABorel:

Orig and 1 - addressee

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2 - AD/NE

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐☐ DECLASSIFIED

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National Estimates